

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 367
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 576

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP, IS, JO
SUBJ: NEW COMMUNIST WEEKLY

1. THE FIRST ISSUE OF AN ARABIC-LANGUAGE, POLITICAL WEEKLY
"AT TALI'AH" ("THE VANGUARD") WAS PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 27
IN JERUSALEM.

2. PUBLISHER IS ELIAS NASRALLAH (IDENTIFIED BY RADIO ISRAEL
AS A MEMBER OF RAKAH). EDITOR IS SELF-PROCLAIMED COMMUNIST
BASHIR BARGHRUTHI WHO SERVED AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF "AL FAJR"
UNTIL LATE 1976 WHEN HE WAS FORCED OUT BECAUSE OF HIS PRO-
COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SADAT/ANTI-SAUDI EDITORIAL LINE. PAPER IS
PRINTED AT SALADIN PRESS, A RAKAH ESTABLISHMENT.

3. IN ITS MANIFESTO, THE NEW WEEKLY ASPIRES "TO INFUSE
NATIONALIST VIEWS WITH SCIENTIFIC AND PROGRESSIVE IDEAS" AND
PROFESSES LOYALTY TO THE GOAL OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
WITHOUT FORSAKING PRINCIPLES OF PEACE, SOCIALISM AND INTER-
NATIONALISM.

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4. FIRST ISSUE INCLUDES LONG ANALYSIS OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL
SCENE. ATHERTON MISSION IS DISMISSED AS BUT ONE EPISODE IN
THE LONG, BORING TV SERIAL "THE AMERICAN SOLUTION." BRITISH,
JORDANIANS AND SAUDIES ARE CRITICIZED IN PASSING, BUT REAL
SCORN IS RESERVED FOR PRINCIPALS--U.S., ISRAEL AND EGYPT.
GOOD WORDS ARE RESERVED FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND HEADS OF

ARAB STATES WHO CONSULTED OF LATE IN MOSCOW. ARTICLE CONCLUDES:

"ALL PARTIES MUST RELY ON THE ARAB PROLETARIATS AND DEFINE FOR THEM CLEAR GOALS WHICH WILL LEAD US TO PEACE AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS AFTER AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB LANDS OCCUPIED IN 1967."

5. COMMENT: "AT TALI'AH" REPRESENTS A FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED AND STYLISH ATTEMPT BY RAKAH AND ITS WEST BANK ALLIES TO CREATE A VOICE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ITS IMPACT IS LIKELY TO BE GREATER WITH YOUNG INTELLECTUALS RATHER THAN OLDER NATIONALISTS E.G. THE MAYORS, WHO WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF ITS CLOSE TIES WITH AN ISRAELI PARTY AND CONDITIONAL NATIONALISM. "AL FAJR" WHICH HAS FOLLOWED FATAH'S RELATIVELY MODERATE LINE WILL NOW FIND A CRITIC TO ITS LEFT.
NEWLIN

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